



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

April 12, 2005

News Release

ICE DEPORTS MAN CONVICTED IN MURDER-FOR-HIRE SCHEME

Man removed to India after 1999 conviction for attempted murder

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A former New York cabdriver who was convicted for conspiring to have a murder contract taken out on his sister-in-law in 1999 was deported to his native India by agents of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Monday.

Arvinder Sandhar, who entered the United States illegally in 1990, was arrested in January 1999 in Queens, N.Y., where he was employed as a cab driver, and charged with conspiracy to commit murder. He pleaded guilty and received a prison sentence of three to nine years.

On Jan. 7, Sandhar was taken into custody by agents of ICE's Office of Detention and Removal Operations (DRO) following his release from the New York State Department of Corrections.

"ICE is dedicated to its mission of restoring integrity to the nation's immigration system, and part of that mission is to ensure that dangerous criminals like Arvinder Sandhar are not allowed back into our communities," said John P. Longshore, chief of DRO's Criminal Alien Division. "By targeting the criminals in prison who are eligible for deportation, we're making sure that these individuals don't get another chance to break our laws or compromise the safety and well-being of the American public."

In early January 1999, the Queens, N.Y., District Attorney's office launched an investigation after receiving a tip that Sandhar was soliciting for a murder contract against his sister-in-law Balbir Kaur Sandhar. In the course of the investigation, an undercover detective posed as a "hit man" and met with Sandhar and his brother, Sukhjinder Sandhar, to discuss the arrangements.

The brothers offered the undercover detective \$7,000 to murder Mrs. Sandhar, and provided him with a \$500 down payment, a photo of Mrs. Sandhar and a detailed description of her daily schedule and activities. They agreed to pay the remaining \$6,500 on the contract after the job was done. Sukhjinder Sandhar requested that the killing take place outside of the family's home in order to protect the couple's children, and that it be a "clean job." The two brothers were arrested Jan. 12, 1999, and both subsequently pleaded guilty to second degree conspiracy to commit murder.

Upon his release from the New York State Department of Corrections in January, Sandhar was taken into custody by ICE agents under the agency's Criminal Alien Program (CAP), which identifies criminal aliens eligible for deportation who are serving sentences in correctional institutions. Upon the completion of their sentences, aliens identified under the CAP are taken into ICE custody and held for removal from the United States before they can be released into the community.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.